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ABSTRACT

A proposed tenth dimension to the Los Angeles Community Colleges nine-campus system would be a college "type" organization but without any campus location. Its purpose would be to provide educational programs and collegiate recognition of the following six concepts: the concept of life-time learning, shift emphasis from degree orientation to service orientation, intelligent use of educational technology, a comprehensive educational information system, new evaluative tools, and cooperation and collaboration. This college without walls would be comprised of four institutes: The Institute of Community Exchange and Cooperation, The Institute of Community Services. The Institute of Self-Directed Learning, and The Institute of Extended Educational Opportunities. (DB)

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JC 740 139

A NEW DIMENSION

April 19, 1974

by

Dr. Leslie Koltai
Chancellor, L.A.C.C.D.

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Thank You,

When I sat down to prepare my remarks for today, I chose the title "A New Dimension" ... intimating, of course, a new dimension in higher education. During the last few years there has been a great deal of experimental work with such concepts as the external degree, the college without walls, store front learning, and various types of non-traditional education. From a conceptual standpoint, there is very little new about these approaches. They have been implemented at various colleges and universities...and have met with measurable success. The new dimension I would like to speak to you about <u>deals with a wide spread</u> application of some of these concepts and techniques. The element of newness is not that we know about these non-traditional methods...but that they are ranked high on our list of priorities. <u>We must move such concepts out of the realm of experimentation...and into the realm of active application</u>.

The eight...and soon to be nine...colleges of the Los Angeles Community College District serve a population of 3,900,000 in an area of 882 square miles. Of this population, approximately 2.8 percent, constitutes our student body...over 108 thousand students. I submit to you that, although this is a large enrollment, 2.8 percent of the population is not representative of the percentage of people who could

BENEFIT FROM HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES ARE NO LONGER...AND HAVE NOT BEEN FOR SOMETIME...CONFINED TO THE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE FACED WITH:

* THOUSANDS OF RETURNING VETERANS
* WOMEN SEEKING JOB SKILLS IN ORDER TO ENTER THE LABOR MARKET
* SENIOR CITIZENS SEEKING FULFILLMENT IN THEIR LEISURE TIME
* UNEMPLOYED MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE SKILLS HAVE BECOME OBSOLETE
* HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS LOOKING TO EDUCATION FOR REHABILITATION
* WORKING MEN AND WOMEN LOOKING TO EDUCATION AS A MEANS OF PROMOTION AND ADVANCEMENT
* CORPORATIONS SEEKING IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES
* INDIVIDUALS IN INSTITUTIONS OF ALL KINDS SEARCHING FOR SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL INTERACTION...AND, OF COURSE, THE LIST GOES ON.

THESE NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS...QUITE NATURALLY, REQUIRE NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL DELIVERY SYSTEMS. PART OF THIS DESIRE TO EXTEND OR CONTINUE LEARNING HAS BEEN EVIDENCED IN THE REMARKABLE GROWTH IN THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EVENING PROGRAMS.

TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS REFLECTED IN THIS TREND, WE HAVE BEGUN TO INSTITUTE QUITE A NUMBER OF NEW PROGRAMS. SOME SAMPLES ARE:

* AT PIERCE COLLEGE A 31 THOUSAND DOLLAR CAREER PLANNING CENTER IS BEING DEVELOPED. THE PURPOSE OF THIS CENTER WILL BE TO PROVIDE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE IN CAREER PLANNING, COUNSELING AND JOB INFORMATION FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. THEN, A SPECIAL COMPONENT WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC COURSES, WORKSHOPS AND ORIEN-

TATION CLASSES FOR WOMEN. IN ADDITION, SPECIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO VETERANS REQUIRING OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING OR RETRAINING.

* AT SOUTHWEST COLLEGE, A 20 THOUSAND DOLLAR PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IS BEING INITIATED. AT FIRST, THE PROGRAM WILL ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES TO DIRECT THE ELDERLY TO NEEDED AGENCIES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. FINALLY, THE PROGRAM WILL BROADEN INTO ONE OFFERING EDUCATION, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS. OUR DOWNTOWN TRADE-TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS ESTABLISHING A SIMILAR PROGRAM.

* AT VALLEY COLLEGE, THEIR OUTREACH PROGRAMS ARE EXPANDING TO INCLUDE NON-CREDIT COURSES REQUESTED BY LOW-INCOME AND SENIOR CITIZEN GROUPS IN NUTRITION, CONSUMER EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE. OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ART EXHIBITS, MUSIC PROGRAMS, LECTURES AND FILMS...ALL MADE AVAILABLE IN OFF-CAMPUS LOCATIONS.

* WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE OUTREACH PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERED IN SIX DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES SERVED BY WEST. THESE WILL INCLUDE NON-CREDIT COURSES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS; SCIENCE FIELD TRIPS IN BIOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY; AND A COMMUNITY THEATRE TOURING COMPANY.

* CITY COLLEGE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BLIND PERSONS. THE PROGRAM INCLUDES SUCH SERVICES AS TUTORING, READING ASSISTANCE AND ORIENTATION. THE PROGRAM ALSO PROVIDES A SPECIAL RESOURCES TEACHER THAT DEALS WITH EACH STUDENT'S SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREA.

Harbor College has developed a Community Reading and Learning Center that specializes in diagnostic services for special problems in reading, consumer education courses, and counseling is provided for parents in helping their children at home.

This is, of course, only a sampling of the community service activities being pursued at the eight campus locations. In total, over 4.3 million dollars will be spent in community service activities. In addition to the community service function, many of our colleges are teaching regular college credit classes in off-campus locations. East Los Angeles College is presently offering classes in the downtown area of Los Angeles and in the San Gabriel Valley. Some of the colleges are involved with providing college level classes at various industry locations to fill specific training needs. It should be noted, however, that even with all of these activities...non-traditional studies and services constitute less than 5 percent of the Los Angeles Community Colleges' 150 million dollar budget.

To help reorder these priorities, I submit to you that there is a need for a tenth dimension to the Los Angeles Community Colleges nine campus system. It would be a college "type" organization...but without a single campus location. It's purpose would be to provide educational programs and collegiate recognition of the following six concepts:

1. <u>The concept of Life-Time Learning</u>

   The rapid advancement of technology, that has affected virtually every aspect of the modern individual's life style, must be recognized as requiring an educational system capable

of training and retraining each individual. Lifetime learning -- basic, continuing and recurrent -- has a new appropriateness today and requires a new pattern of support. This means relocating, rescheduling and reevaluating types of instruction presently pursued only in the most traditional setting. Lifetime learning is not an academic philosophy... it is a societal necessity. It has been said that the educated youth of today are the obsolete adults of tomorrow. For many of those who stand in our unemployment lines... tomorrow has already arrived.

2. Shift Emphasis From Degree Orientation to Service Orientation

Community Colleges must shift emphasis from degree-granting to service to the learner -- thus countering what has become a degree-earning obsession. Many college graduates are quickly discovering that possession of a degree has no guarantee of employment. In response to this, educators have become more and more aware of the need for career counseling and planning. If a student requires competence in a specific skill -- a skill that requires six months of study -- it is senseless to require such a student to complete a two or four year curriculum before he receives the necessary certification. Career counseling and individualized instructional programs are both steps towards more effectively serving the student.

3. Intelligent Use of Educational Technology

An organized effort must be made to promote intelligent and widespread use of educational technology with special emphasis on programming for television, computers, videotape recorders

and multi-media approaches. The importance of these various approaches is evidenced in the enormous success many institutions have experienced with televised courses. In Los Angeles, television can become an important means of introducting post-secondary education into the lives of adults. It has been notably successful in opening access to the physically handicapped, aged person unable to travel, housewives who cannot meet rigid campus schedules, prisoners, hospital patients, and those in geographically isolated areas. In addition, it provides many adults who are unsure of their educational potential with an opportunity to "try their scholarly wings" before being exposed to the usual classroom experience.

4. A Comprehensive Educational Information System

Of great importance, is the creation of a system to make possible easy access to information of all kinds. This would include information gathering, storage and dissemination in such areas as counseling and guidance services, instructional developments and services, and to serve as a repository of credit for student achievement. One of the most important aspects of this area is that of sharing experiences. If one of the colleges is making progress in an experimental area... the more quickly the techniques can be communicated...the more quickly such sucesses can be duplicated. In relation to counseling and guidance services, one of the largest benefits of such service is not on the college campus...but rather in the community. Counseling and guidance is often necessary for the person to even realize there is an educational opportunity.

5. New Evaluative Tools

New evaluative tools should be developed to match the non-traditional arrangements now evolving, so that accreditation and the granting of credentials will have appropriate measures of quality. Before we can begin to tap the professional expertise effectively in the community...before we can actively utilize the learning laboratories outside the classroom, we must provide an appropriate academic yardstick.

6. Cooperation and Collaboration

Cooperation and collaboration must be encouraged among collegiate, community and alternative educational entities so that diverse educational programs and structures may come into being.

To achieve these ends, I am proposing the formation of a Tenth Dimension to the Los Angeles Community College District. It would be a separate college-type organization for the community and individualized education. Examples of such programs would be the external degree, inter-disciplinary studies, development of learning systems, and instructional television. The primary purpose of this tenth dimension would be to provide programs too costly to duplicate...or not available through existing campuses. This college without walls would be constituted of four institutes:

First, The Institute of Community Exchange and Cooperation. Its prime responsibility would be to serve as a liaison between the many agencies, institutions, schools, associations and businesses residing in the Los Angeles area. Its purpose in this capacity would be to

investigate possible educational resources and to coordinate activities of a district-wide nature. This could include providing training sessions for an industrial organization or making arrangements for inter-organizational workshops, conferences and conventions. Also part of the institute would be the inservice training of the district's staff and faculty.

Second, The Institute of Community Services. Its prime responsibility would be to provide a comprehensive district-wide program of counseling, non-credit classes, film series, lecture series, and clinics not possible by an individual campus. It should be noted, however, that these activities are not meant to replace present campus programs... but to provide a coordinated coverage of important services.

Third, the Institute of Self Directed Learning. This division would deal with the possibilities of the modern electronic media. In developing instructional television...radio...or telephone courses ...the institute could draw upon the faculty at each of the nine colleges. The expense of such programs would indicate that centralization of such activities would produce a definite cost benefit. In addition, the institute would provide a specific time and place for the investigation of all types of learning systems. In this way, it would serve as a laboratory and a resource center for each of the colleges in the district.

Fourth, the Institute of Extended Educational Opportunities. This area would include the development of information systems relative to educational management. Part of its function would also be to serve as a repository of credit for student achievement

OUTSIDE OF THE TRADITIONAL CAMPUS SETTING. THIS WOULD INCORPORATE OUR PRESENT OVERSEAS PROGRAM AND SIMILAR NON-TRADITIONAL CURRICULA SUCH AS CREDIT BY EXAMINATION AND INDIVIDUALIZED DEGREE CONTRACTS.

THE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS TENTH DIMENSION IS THAT IT PROVIDES, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A HORIZONTAL COVERAGE OF THE LOS ANGELES AREA. UNTIL THIS TIME, THE LOS ANGELES DISTRICT WAS DIVIDED INTO VERTICAL CAMPUS LOCATIONS...LOCATIONS THAT COULD NOT EASILY MOVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR COMPREHENSIVE DISTRICT COVERAGE. IT MUST BE STRESSED THAT THE TENTH DIMENSION IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO SUPPLANT... OR...USURP PRESENT CAMPUS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. IT IS DESIGNED TO:

* DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TOO COSTLY TO DUPLICATE ON NINE SEPARATE CAMPUSES.

* TO INVESTIGATE AND TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY RESOURCES AS A MEANS OF PRODUCING A MORE VIABLE EDUCATIONAL PLAN.

* TO PROVIDE AN ORGANIZATIONAL MODE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDIES...THEIR DISCOVERY, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION;

* TO INCREASE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION AMONG THE MANY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES OF THE LOS ANGELES METROPOLIS...AND FINALLY,

*TO PROVIDE A CHANGE AGENT APPROACH TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY PURPOSE TODAY WAS NOT TO SPEAK IN TERMS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY...THE EXPERIMENTAL..OR THE "INNOVATIVE."

Rather, I hope that I have adequately expressed the intention of the Los Angeles Community Colleges to use...to actively use those non-traditional methods that have already gained acceptance on a nationwide scale. Indeed, I am announcing the development of the tenth dimension: A college organization dedicated to...and created for non-traditional studies. We are moving out of the realm of experimentation...and into the realm of practical application.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

MAY 22 1974

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